Volume 4, No. 17 • July 18, 1997

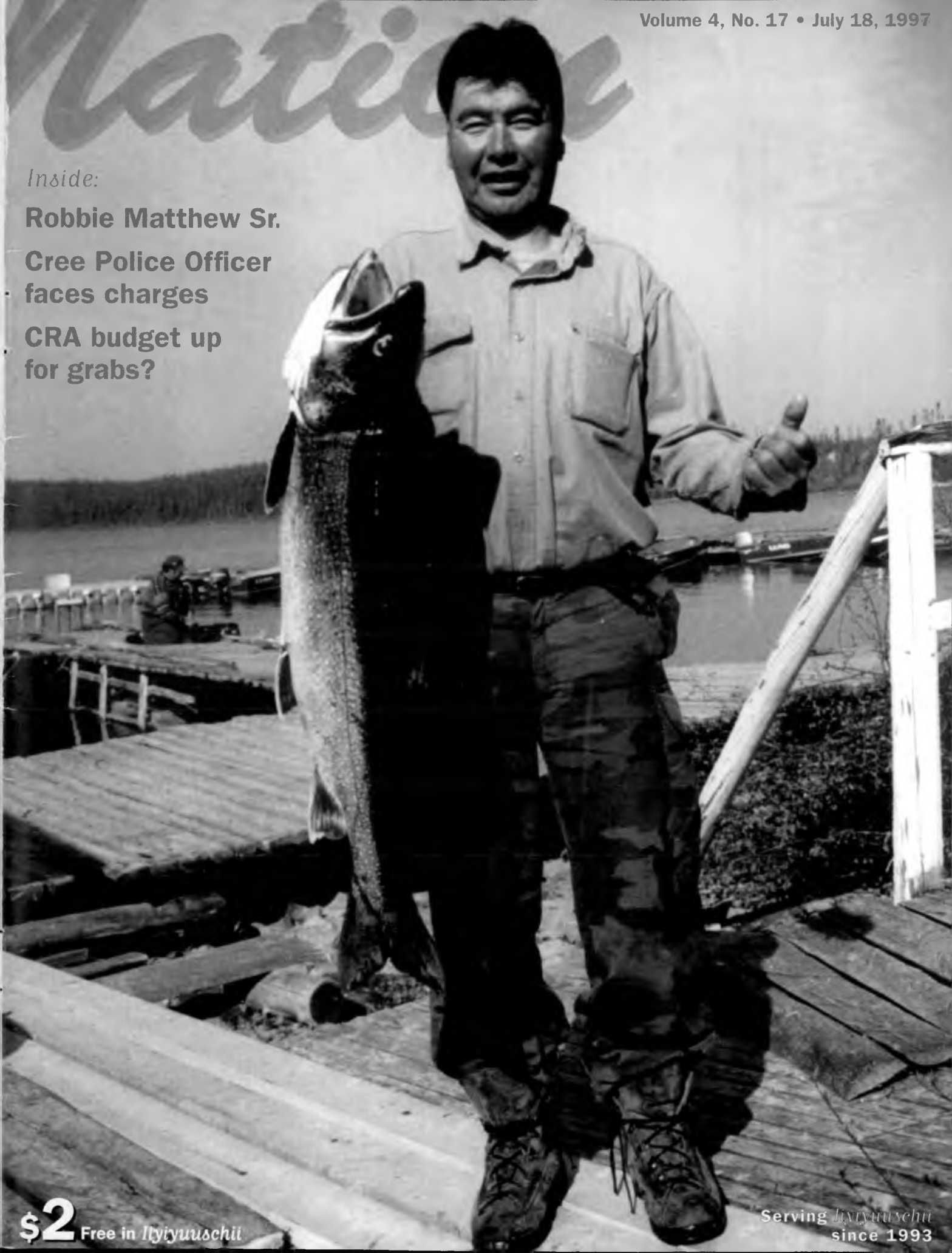
Nation

Inside:

Robbie Matthew Sr.

Cree Police Officer faces charges

CRA budget up for grabs?



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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Diane Moar with Baby Tyler

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN

Had a very strange thought lately. Under Canadian law, a corporation has the legal rights of a person. I say, if they have the rights, then let's go all the way: Let's give them the responsibilities and the same consideration that we would give another person in this world of ours.

This extends to all our corporate neighbours but I would like to make a case using Hydro-Quebec.

Hydro-Quebec is a part of the Cree, Quebec, Canadian and world societies (as an international corporation). Therefore, it is its responsibility as a "person" to do as these societies require of their citizens. Hydro-Quebec should understand the processes, duties, responsibilities and purposes of "good" citizenship in the communities in which it finds itself.

Lao-Tzu wrote the following around 600 B.C. or so: *"What is a good man but a bad man's teacher? What is a bad man but a good man's job? If you don't understand this, you will get lost, however intelligent you are. It is the great secret."*

Think about it, think about it very carefully. Does this not apply to the way that societies work with each other? Whether it be community actions or court, it is the "good man" attempting to teach the "bad man" the correct way to act in society.

Is Hydro-Quebec a "good man, or a "bad man"? Did this Hydro-Quebec "person" not flood Cree land, deny Cree rights and impact Cree and animal societies in Iiyiyuuschii as no other person ever had in the '70s? Has this person continued their ways and have they not honoured their obligations and guarantees to other persons living in the Cree territory? Have they not participated in or attempted to do similar actions around the world to other humans? The 1990 Three Gorges Hydro Project in China comes to mind.

Is this person not planning to divert more than just the Crees' rivers? I have heard this is so.

Therefore, are not the actions of Hydro-Quebec in these societies those of a bad man? I do not think anyone could deny this by any standards that "good men" live by.

Therefore it is our obligation "as a good man" to teach this person.

This in itself is why the Crees should go back to the international community to stop Hydro-Quebec without delay. We have to do what our society has dictated for those who acted badly. We attempted to handle this problem internally within the society. Much as in the past, it would be first up the immediate family to solve the problem. Then extended family would get involved until it reached the level where the entire community would act together to solve the problem.

At first the Crees got initial help from others in the family (other First Nations and political organizations and the Great White Father in Ottawa), then used the courts (extended family) and finally went to the community level (U.S., Europe, World Court, etc.) It was only at this final "community" level that this Hydro-Quebec person started to value the respect of the community and understand what was expected of him.

I phoned Robbie Matthew Sr. to talk to him about the problems with Hydro-Quebec. His first response was to point out that there was a Christian response... Take his drawers down and spank his behind good and hard.

After our mutual laugh, Matthew Sr. said the traditional Cree response meant we were required to help this person correct his mistakes because everyone, including Elders, have made mistakes.

"It is time for Hydro-Quebec to listen to the Elders," said Matthew Sr., adding that they would help give Hydro a chance to go into the future.

One can only hope that this Hydro-Quebec person still has the ability to go into a bright future with the rest of the people it shares a community with.

So we are looking for a few good men to help Hydro-Quebec out of his present dead-end future.

by Will Nicholls

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COVER PHOTO:
David Mianscum displays 21-lb. lake trout caught in his net at Vieux Poste, Mistissini Lake

Photo by: Neil Diamond
Cover design: Katerina Cizek

So what do you think...

About this mess we're in, I mean. I know what you're thinking: "What mess are you talking about *this* time, Ndiamon? Or however the hell you call yourself."

A few have mispronounced my *nom de geurre* as if it meant, in Cree, lies. But it's actually just a happy mistake that they do.

I think the worst case of mispronunciation was made by our own Grand Chief during the last election about a year ago. He had been alerted by underlings about extremely negative comments on the Cree election process which appeared in *Rez Notes*. He told us that a reader had pointed out to him that "Naomi" was "mocking the system." He claimed to have dismissed the accuser and defended the criticisms. But you never know what to believe. I, or my colleague, I can't recall, corrected that it wasn't "Naomi" who was mocking the system but that it was really "Ndiamon" who was doing the deed. He seemed surprised, and said nothing more on the subject.

I didn't have the energy, or maybe I was embarrassed, to explain to these people where "Ndiamon" came from. But we'll give it a shot here and now. It's very simple really. Ndiamon -- see how the name just rolls off the tongue? -- was my great, great, great and maybe even Great, grandfather's name. Some members of the family will claim his name was Oo-deh-hee-min. The word strawberry in Cree. Some though will say his name was N-dee-a-min. Meaning, I speak. Pretty close to "I lie" but I'll settle for that. I mean, who wants to be named after vegetation, right?

Whatever his true name was, he is my flesh and blood and may have met the Company when they opened their first franchise back home in Waskaganish, Ganiohgashee, Fort Charles, Rupert House, Fort Rupert or whatever the heli you want to call it now. To tell you the truth I believe I met him once.

I was in a trance. Okay, so it might have been of my own creation but whatever. He screamed to me as he stood beside many others, "Oodeh!, Oodeh!, Oodeh!" I accepted. And denied most of what had been drummed into me since birth. My beliefs in an oppressive system, religious and otherwise, took an awful blow. I made a choice. Black or white. Red or white. The red, the white or the blue. There was no gray. Of course I agonized over my choice. This was life or death we're talking about here. Once the choice was made, the pain left

and I slept. The next day the feeling lingered and I've, for good or ill, never been the same since.

I know, it freaked me out too.

I guess what I'm trying to say in my own twisted way is that we have to make a stand, a choice. We have to say what many are afraid to say no matter the consequences. This is what I believe. This is who I am. This is where I come from and you can't do with it as you please. You cannot come in and say I'll share this with you when it's not even yours to share.

It's still a mystery what the people at the top are saying to each other on the latest happenings in Creeland. The still silent Cree majority, though, are not pleased with recent events taking place in their homeland. There is true confusion, fear and, may the good Doctor forgive me, loathing against the ones who may have final say on what is to happen back home. They say our leaders have "lost touch" with us. The leaders on the other side never had "touch" with us so they're a little bit easier to understand. They know nothing else but the almighty dollar. That is how they were brought up. They will stop at almost nothing to get it. Very weird.

Weirder still is what happened in Whapmagoostui on June 27. Locals saw a "fireball" fall to the north of the community. Days later some hunters on their way back saw the impact sight. Ten miles from Great Whale. Josie George tells us the sight measures a quarter mile in diametre.About the width of... I don't know... Eastmain?

There are some mysterious men who usually wear lab coats and pocket protecters at the site. "They might not want to tell us anything," said a slightly paranoid community member. Someone in Chisasibi spyed an army-style "Black" helicopter heading north. There's nothing more to do now but declare the whole Great Whale area a development-free zone.

Maybe this unidentified flying object will be Great Whale's savior.

by Ndiamon

the Nation

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CHIEFS WANT 60% OF CRA BUDGET

Plagued by financial problems in their communities, some cash-starved Cree chiefs are suggesting a radical solution to their lack of funds. Carve up the budget of the Cree Regional Authority and distribute it among the nine bands.

The CRA is now in the middle of fixing its annual $8-million budget, which has to be approved by the chiefs.

Two or three of the chiefs are proposing a bold plan. Take 60 per cent of the $8 million, or $4.8 million, and give it directly to the Cree communities. The CRA would be left with 40 per cent, or $3.2 million.

The extra $4.8 million doesn't represent a lot of money compared to how much the nine communities already spend: $65 million a year. The extra money would amount to a 7-per-cent increase in band funds.

But the plan could potentially be a devastating blow to the CRA and Grand Council of the Crees, which would lose many of their responsibilities and dozens of staff.

The CRA's budget is already $1 million less than last year due to a drop in federal funding. And the Grand Council's budget has fallen from $4 million to $2 million.

Chief Billy Diamond, who did not return our calls, is apparently one of the chiefs who wants the CRA downsized.

Facing a multi-million-dollar deficit in his band's finances, Chief Diamond is apparently pushing to have his community's entire share of the CRA budget handed over to Waskaganish this year. The amount is $700,000.

Others involved in the budget discussions are luke warm to Chief Diamond's request.

"It's going to set a precedent. If the situation wasn't his fault, if the government didn't pay $700,000 it owed, that would be fine. But the problem is he spent money he didn't have," said one Cree leader.

"So next year, Nemaska will run up a $1-million deficit and they'll say the GCCQ will cover it. At that time, there will be no GCCQ or CRA."

But he added that a discussion about the CRA's budget and role is long overdue. "It pressures the GCCQ/CRA to move on the new Cree government. In reality, if you look at this, things have to change. Everything that was set up in 1975 was meant to change. We're spending money like crazy. So many millions are spent on nothing."

One Cree chief who spoke on condition of anonymity said the CRA is wasting money. "We're looking at making it leaner and meaner. Our approach is to maximize the use of the money."

The chief said the CRA has spent $120 million over the last nine years. "What did we get out of it? What advantage did we receive? I have a high unemployment rate here. Let's use the money wisely."

But the CRA's defenders say downsizing the CRA doesn't make financial or political sense. "At the CRA there's one biologist. Are we now going to hire nine biologists? Are we going to hire nine engineers?" asked one Cree official.

If the CRA is dismantled, he said, "the economies of scale go out the window. It weakens the Crees more. It takes away our political strength."

"It's good to do CRA bashing in the communities," he added. "It's very easy to point fingers elsewhere when we screw up."

by Alex Roslin

HQ WON'T RELEASE STUDIES

Hydro-Quebec says studies on the diversion of the Great Whale and Rupert rivers will remain a secret.

The utility turned down a written request for the studies made by *The Nation* under the Access to Information Act. Hydro refuses to confirm or deny whether the studies even exist.

The Nation also requested documentation of negotiations that have been held with Crees over the diversions; and information on water levels in all reservoirs in Iiyuuschii.

HQ turned down all our requests with a short two-paragraph letter that says: "We unfortunately cannot accede to your request for the reasons in Articles 21, 22, 27, 37...," etc.

Hydro says it won't release the information because energy markets are being deregulated. Outside utilities can now sell energy in Quebec, while HQ has the right to sell its energy outside the province without any restrictions. HQ says it needs to keep information secret from its competitors.

Brian Craik, of the Grand Council of the Crees, said the secrecy will make it harder for the public to force HQ to justify its projects.

"In order to know whether Hydro-Quebec is managing the reservoirs properly, you have to know what the level of the reservoirs is," Craik said.

"Hydro-Quebec keeps all these studies secret because it does not want the public to know there are actually things that can be criticized about what it does.

"I don't think Quebec's energy system should be run taking into account what the American energy needs are."

Craik said the secrecy also makes it impossible for Crees to know whether HQ is respecting the maximum water levels as set out in the JBNQA.

Knowing the reservoir levels helped Crees raise questions about the original Great Whale project. "You had to be able to argue if the project was required or not, and if there were better solutions than what they were proposing. If you look at the reservoir levels, you could get a good idea if they were managing the water in the best way possible."

The Nation is considering an appeal of Hydro's refusal to release the information requested.

-Alex Roslin

Where do we stand?

Letter to *The Nation*:

An open letter to the Grand Council of the Crees.

Where do we stand? What is your response to Mr. Bouchard's plans on invading our territory so we can lose our right to self-government and the right to gain our own land back with its own boundaries? What is our plan of action? Are we going to be able to live in harmony with these governments who can't even live in harmony with nature like most of us Crees do? Are we going to move now or are we going to move after it's too late?

These are just a few questions that I have to ask you out of very many concerning these very, very, very important issues. After reading *The Nation*, vol. 4, no. 16, with the picture of our future leader Bouchard on the front page, I was very disturbed, worried and upset to read the quote flag planting and his promise to inevitably populate our territory.

This person will with no doubt be our future leader if we continue to even allow them to even plant a single flag seed which will then grow to be a flag of another nation which to this day has no understanding of our ways and our ways with the land. We already allowed them to plant a lot of seeds like the dams we have in our backyards, the roads that snake through our territory, Radisson, the logging companies, non-Native outfitting camps, non-Native fishing and hunting cabins that seem to pop out of nowhere, mining companies, questionnaires that are given out to tourists asking them whether they are satisfied with the access to our favourite fishing spots, even going as far as asking whether we were decent looking people. (Ask for your own questionnaire at the Matagami gate or at the Esso gas station in Chibougamau.)

Bertie W. and Matthew M. said by allowing them to do studies you're already letting them move one step into their project of destruction. This is also a flag seed. They even named our land for us "Radissonie." Fact: While negotiations are taking place down there flag-planting is taking place at this very moment up here. I understand that negotiations have to take place and that it's very important,

so is there any way we can prevent this from taking place, like send in a task force?

Right now we still have lots of room for play. We still are not squeezed too far into a corner but if we don't take action now we will be squeezed into the corner where it will start getting very tight and who knows what can happen. IT COULD GET PRETTY CHAOTIC AND VIOLENT when we burst out. Look what happened to our brothers, the Mohawks, in the

continued on page 13

REST AND RELAX!

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Maamuitaau

On CBC TV

August 2 and 3

A showcase of Cree musical talent was in the spotlight at last year's second annual "Voices of the Land' music festival. Organized by the community of Ouje-Bougoumou, both performers and audiences gathered from all corners of the province. **Maamuitaau** brings you highlights of the event.

August 9 and 10

For years residents of Cree communities have been advocating the need to have native police officers. For some towns, their wishes have become a reality. **Maamuitaau** takes a look at this issue featuring interviews with police recruits at the training centre in Nicolet. **Maamuitaau** also talks with an experienced native female constable about her role as a peace officer.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

Saturdays	06:58	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

CBC North

SAWMILL SUPPORTER LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

Allan Cooper Sr. was one of the first residents of Waswanipi to argue that the community should build its own sawmill.

Long before the band and its forestry company, Mishtuk Corp., got involved, Cooper had travelled far and wide talking to potential partners willing to help Waswanipi get the sawmill off the ground.

He thought a sawmill would be a good way to create jobs for people. He also hoped to benefit from the sawmill a little himself, and that's where his problems began.

Cooper has been in the forestry industry 30 years and owns two dump trucks good for hauling wood and other material. He was getting little jobs here and there for the trucks, but it was getting tough to pay the bills without steady work.

Cooper got some good news just two months before the Nabakatuk sawmill finally opened last month. He says Roger Lachance, a forestry consultant for Waswanipi, asked him for the services of a loader. The contract was worth over $200,000. Cooper was happy.

On April 17, he got a letter from Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen promising a contract for his trucks. The letter said, "Since the sawmill will need your services for wood haulage, we expect that you will start working for Nabakatuk as soon as you are ready."

It also said, "One of the principle reasons underlying the establishment of the sawmill in Waswanipi is to provide real employment and contractual opportunities for community members and enterprises such as yourself." Cooper was real happy.

He got on the phone and got a Montreal company to order special parts for the loader from the U.S. The parts cost $15 to 20,000, he says.

Two weeks before the sawmill grand opening, everything changed. Cooper bumped into Lachance. The loader is ready, Cooper told him. "What loader?" was Lachance's reply. "I never asked for a loader." Cooper couldn't believe his ears.

Lachance explained that another company, Transport Maybois Inc. of Val d'Or, had offered to do the same job for half the price. Lachance told Cooper he'd have to cut his price in half to get the contract. Cooper did the math. There's no way anyone could pay all their expenses with such a low price.

Now, he's mad and suspicious. He thinks Waswanipi is being taken for a ride. He says Maybois bid below cost just to get the contract and afterwards will raise its price. "Later on, they'll say, 'The price we gave you is a special price. Now you pay the regular price.' It's not going to save them money."

Cooper is upset: "The reason we have the sawmill is it was going to create employment for Native people."

Cooper wondered how Maybois suddenly got to the front of the line. Maybois goes way back with Domtar, Waswanipi's partner in the sawmill. Maybois trucks have hauled Domtar's wood for the past 13 years.

Maybois owner Fernand Boisvert says Waswanipi approached him and asked him to make a bid. But Cooper wonders why Maybois was invited when he was promised the job. He also asks how he can compete with such a large company. With 39 trucks, Maybois is one of the largest logging truck companies in Northern Quebec.

Roger Lachance refused to speak about Cooper's situation and referred us to Chief Kitchen. Kitchen did not get back to us.

by Alex Roslin

WEMINDJI COP CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT

Wemindji police officer Timothy Matoush has resigned after being charged with sexual assault.

Matoush, 28, was charged with sexually assaulting a Cree female police officer in Montreal on February 8. They were both taking a training course at the Nicolet Police Institute at the time.

Matoush has been freed pending a court hearing on Sept. 11, on the condition he does not communicate with the victim or witnesses. He resigned as a Wemindji police officer in March.

Also in March, Wemindji police officer Roy Ratt was fired after being involved in several drinking incidents, according to a band official.

The two sudden departures have left the Wemindji police force under a cloud. One resident said officers should get more training and be screened better. "They just pick people up from the street when they hire people. I thought they were supposed to follow a process when they hire an officer," he said.

"They're in trouble," agreed Clarence Tomatuk, a former candidate for chief. "The confidence from people is not there. There is not a lot of respect from people as to how they conduct themselves. They don't have the leadership they need to put themselves together."

An official with the band asked residents to be patient. Elmer Georgekish took over as chief of police a year ago and he is "gradually taking control" of the situation, the official said. "In five or six months, he's going to do a good job."

"It's a tough community to police," he added, pointing to the new access road which brought a rise in alcohol-related disturbances. But things are improving, said the official. Things are calming down thanks to a new AA group and the work of Wemindji's social committee.

BROTHERS JAILED FOR SEXUAL ABUSE

Two Waswanipi brothers were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 12 to 18 months earlier this year for sexually abusing a young girl in the community.

Billy and Jimmy Noel, 39 and 41, were arrested by the SQ and Waswanipi police on March 26, 1996.

continued on page 9

2nd Annual Cree First Nation Fitness Challenge

WHERE THE ELITE COMPETE

NOTICE:
CHANGE OF DATE AUG. 29 & 30

Registration Deadline: August 15

AGE CATEGORIES (MALE & FEMALE):
16-24
25 & up

INSCRIPTION FEES:
Men $500
Women $500

DISTANCES:	Men	Women	PRIZES:	Men	Women
Swimming	1Km	1Km	1st	$3000	$3000
Cycling	20Km	15Km	2nd	2500	2500
Portage	1Km	0.5Km	3rd	2000	2000
Canoeing	2Km	1Km	4th	1000	1000
Running	10Km	7.5Km	5th	850	850
Total	**34Km**	**25Km**			

also: **$100.00 *cash prize will be awarded to the first place winner in each event. Trophies & plaques will also be awarded. Prize money may vary depending on the number of participants.*

Are you up to the Challenge?

For more information contact John Henry Wapachee at (819) 673-2512, or call your local Sports & Rec. Department.
Note: 16 & 17 yr. olds must have parental consent to compete.

Congratulations to all the students who have graduated from the Teacher Training Program:

Certificate in Aboriginal Literacy:
CREE - McGill University
Marion Cox CHISASIBI
Margaret Bearskin CHISASIBI

Bachelor of Education Program -
McGill University
Ricky Jolly WASKAGANISH
Susan Masty WHAPMAGOOSTUI
Shirley Moar WASKAGANISH

Bachelor of Education Program -
University of Quebec at Chicoutimi
Charlotte Brien-Macleod MISTISSINI
Juliette Petiquay-Swallow MISTISSINI
Sophie George-Shem WHAPMAGOOSTUI

In Chisasibi, a Graduation ceremony was held for the B.Ed. graduates from Chisasibi, who have graduated since the last graduation in 1988. They are:

Bachelor of Education Program -
University of Quebec at Chicoutimi
Jimmy Bearskin
Beatrice Lameboy-Bullfrog
Marion Atkinson-Cox
Alice Lameboy-Labbe
Rena Bullfrog-Picard
Betsy Shem
Samuel Bearskin
Elijah Cox
Sarah Mark-Stewart-Herodier
David Pepabano
Luci Bobbish-Salt

continued from page 7

The two pled guilty to one charge each of sexual touching committed against an 11-year-old girl. The girl did not have to come to court, said prosecutor Marie-Chantale Brassard.

On Jan. 24 this year, Billy was sentenced to 18 months in jail and three years' probation. His probation officer submitted a report to the court saying Billy has the characteristics of a "pedophile." He is further prohibited for a period of 10 years from going to a public park, swimming area, community centre or school ground. Also from holding a job or being a volunteer where anyone under 14 will be present.

Jimmy faces the same restrictions for five years. He was also sentenced to 12 months in jail and three years' probation.

Cree Construction focuses closer to home

Cree Construction is cancelling plans to go international after a review of its operations by outside consultants.

That means its controversial plan to go after a $200-million (U.S.) Philippines road-construction project is on ice, and so is work in other countries with poor human-rights records.

"People were scattering their forces," said Roderick Pachano, chairman of the board of directors of CreeCo. Inc. "Our assessment is it was too risky. None of the staff we had knew what they were getting into or the rules of the game in the country."

The decision was made in March by Cree Construction's board of directors. The company had been pursuing a number of different projects in the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, but nothing concrete had emerged after all the efforts. Only one project, a $400,000 feasibility study of the Philippines road, had actually materialized.

Pachano said Cree Construction will focus on projects in the Cree territory and in North America. "We want to start from where Cree Construction started, which was in the Cree communities."

The company has hired two Cree marketing development officers who will help promote the new strategy. A third Cree officer will be hired soon. The Crees will increase the company's Native profile, since until recently only one of its 28 employees, president Steven Bearskin, was a Cree.

Pachano said Cree Construction will still pursue international contracts, but only through government agencies like CIDA and the World Bank.

When the Philippines road contract was first announced, *The Nation* spoke with experts on the country who warned that Cree Construction was walking into the middle of a guerrilla war between the government and indigenous peoples. For years, the Filipino army has waged a deadly war against Natives trying to protect their ancestral lands from development. The road would have opened up virgin areas to exploitation.

Voyageur Memorial students raised $5,000 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Healthy Cree babies

Good news for Cree parents. Cree babies have one of the world's lowest chances of being born underweight.

Only 2.3 per cent of Cree babies weighed under 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs) at birth. This compares with 8 per cent of American babies, 6 per cent in Quebec and 4 per cent in Scandinavia, which is the next lowest after the Crees.

Babies that weigh less than 5.5 lbs are at risk for medical problems. Babies have low birthweight if the mother is stressed out, lacks support from family and friends, smokes or doesn't eat well.

Thirty-six per cent of Cree babies weighed more than 4 kg (9.5 lbs). Very big babies (over 10 lbs.) may be at higher risk for obesity and diabetes later in life. Mothers are also at risk for Caesarean section or a difficult delivery. But there is less immediate worry if the baby is too small, says the Public Health Module of the Cree Health Board in a new study.

Some possible reasons for the high Cree birthweight are less smoking, good family support and pregnancies that last a couple of days longer than in the South.

Students raise $5,000

Students of Voyageur Memorial School in Mistissini raised $5,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec, one of the highest amounts per student in the entire province.

Over the last four years, Voyageur Memorial students raised $13,000 for the foundation. Close to 1,000 first to sixth graders at the school took part. Students raised funds for the foundation through sponsorships from family and friends.

Innu festival rocks

Kuei from the Innu Nation! The Innu of Mani-Utenam, near Sept-Iles, invite one and all to the 13th edition of the Innu Nikamu music festival this August 7 to 10.

The festival was launched in 1984 to showcase the Innu culture to Native and non-Native audiences.

We are told the festival will be held outdoors in downtown Mani-Utenam. The press release says, "The now-famous fireworks will shine in the sky of Mani-Utenam Saturday, August 8."

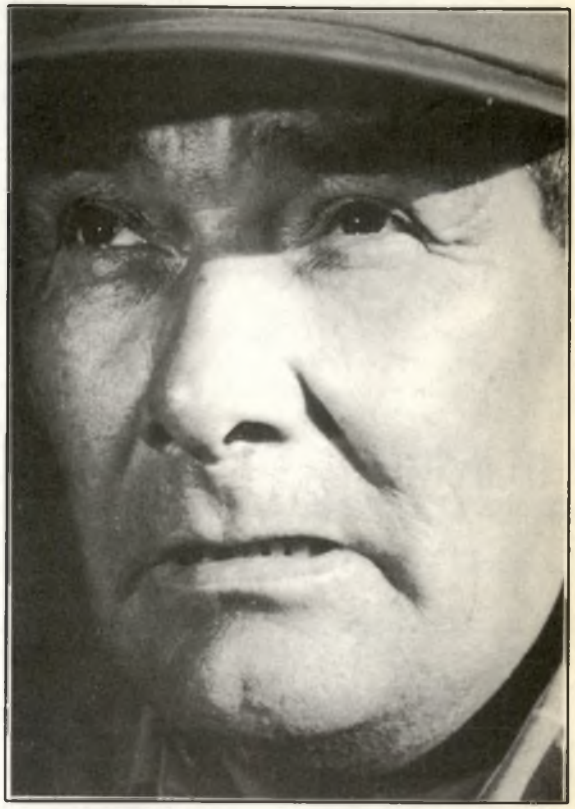
Also, pack yer platform shoes and tie-dyed shirt because Much Music be spinnin' some fly tunage at the festival on Aug. 7. Rock on. Info: (418) 927-3018. Ask for "Ketoune."

We can still fight

I called up Robbie Matthew Sr. in Chisasibi when I was writing my editorial, "Looking for a few good men" (page 3). I had come to an area I needed help in to finish it. I asked him about traditions when dealing with a bad man in Cree society. I came away with far more then I expected. This was not unusual when talking with this man. He is and has always been someone that I have honoured and respected. He has a calmness and serenity about him that is rarely seen today. It is a privilege to know him.

He is one of the four directors working for the Elders' Council. I asked him about what the Elders thought and wanted. In a few questions he gave me the answers but left me with more questions.

By William Nicholls



NEIL DIAMOND

Robbie Matthew Sr.

***The Nation*: What do you feel is your mandate from the Elders' Council?**

Robbie Matthew Sr.: What I was trying to get across to people, the message is there from the Elders. Where you get the information is from the Elders. This is what the mandate is supposed to be. Anybody who wants to know or learn or understand the wisdom of the Elders, they must approach the Elders first to get the information. This is why our mandate is for the Elders. We must put them in front, I guess, of everything because this is where wisdom lies. With the Elders. Anything that goes, anyone who wants to know about information, they have to go through that channel of our own culture. That's what the mandate of the Elders is.

As we sit with the Elders at every council that takes place we listen to them and everything is recorded in the minutes. It's something that we as Native people must learn and must respect our Elders first. Because this is where our own life started from. Our own understanding of respect. Everything that the land holds for us is in the wisdom of the Elders.

This is the mandate I guess. This is what our Elders are trying to teach. Something more. In order to understand more what we are after, what we are trying to find. In other terms, there is a lot to be understood from what our Elders say.

In the Whiteman's version there is a guarantee, something like a guarantee for your life, I guess, that you will have money always. And the White people call it life insurance. There is money involved in that. We, the Elders, interpret our Land as life insurance. The Elders looked in a different way to make us understand how the Land should be. The Land should be looked after and preserved. As the Whiteman calls it life insurance, we interpret in another way. The Land is our life insurance for our young generations. They don't mention any money, but the Land is like a life insurance for us. If we cannot hold more land for our future generations, they say then what are we holding for?

Life insurance is a good thing, but the insurance of the Land is also. Our life depends on the Land so the Elders call that life insurance. And this is the way these Elders interpret. For us to understand what the Land should mean to us. This is the wisdom at the words of our Elders. The words they used have a different meaning like life insurance. With that you will always have money but what about us who depend so much on the Land and what about the young generation? Will there be Land insurance for our young generation?

That's what our Elders are trying to put across to us. The wisdom and knowledge they understand about the Land.

What do you think about Hydro-Quebec's latest project to divert the Rupert's and Great Whale rivers into the existing La Grande project then?

To us, the Native people don't really understand how law works with the Whiteman. In the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), the first question I would have to ask is who made that law? It was not us that made that law. It was the Whiteman's own way of making laws. They told us in court that us Native people had lost our own rights on the Land and that's what it states in the JBNQA. And he seems to understand; the Whiteman understands that in another way. But, we as Natives, we didn't understand that, what it meant. We believed that we had our rights and our freedoms towards the Land. We still defend that Land and we want to it because if everything was supposed to work according to the JBNQA, right there the two governments and Hydro-Quebec and all the big corporations made a big mistake.

I tried to understand, myself, the human rights commission. I try to understand what it means. What it was supposed to have meant.

Every individual, every human being, every nationality of people has rights.

The JBNQA was supposed to have been written in Cree also for the benefit of the Cree people and the traditional way of life. But it has never been done. So the strength lies within our own self, our own culture, our own language. Our language has never been written, that which has been written in English and French has never been written in Cree. It has never been done. I think we have a strong voice on that. We never surrendered our own rights and one of the reasons is it (the JBNQA) has never been written in Cree. All those agreements have never been written in Cree, therefore we are strong. Everything was done in English and French. This is where our Native people must realize the strong voice of our own language to be recognized as a nation. That's where our strength lies today, in our own language. We have never surrendered anything because we have never surrendered our language.

"With our culture and our language we are more powerful than Hydro-Quebec."

That's what Hydro must be afraid of because we can still fight. We can still fight because we have the freedom of rights. Our language has never been recognized, our way of life has never been recognized so we have a strong fight. I think, myself, we have a better chance to go to go on than to let Hydro run over our own destiny. We have a strong voice because they have never, never used our language. So that's what we are going to do. We are going to fight them. Right!?!

Yes. So you think it's definitely going to be a fight?

Yeah, it's going to be a fight because that's the way I take it now. That's the way I see it. I admire those young people. I've seen this in *The Nation*. The way they are thinking about the Land. It's a very strong opposition, I would say. Their opinions are strong because they've always been in contact with the Elders. From the Elders this is where this message comes from so that's what I mean. We are strong in a sense but only if everybody seems to know what I am trying to approach with them. With our culture and our language we are more powerful than Hydro-Quebec.

Do you see an immediate need for people to sit down and learn from the Elders?

I think so. I think this is where our leaders must go. To hear the Elders now. To hear their opinions. To me the Elders have the last voice. The last say in what they think of our own destiny. If we have to lose the Land, this is what is going to happen. Our leaders always mentioned self-determination and self-government. Without the Land we cannot govern ourselves. This is where our destiny lies. Within the Land itself. Without the Land we cannot teach. Without the Land we cannot teach our young people the ways of life, the meanings of life and survival. Without the Land nobody will survive. This is what the leaders will get in a message from the Elders. There is time to go to the Elders when the battle starts to get rough. There is always time to go and have peaceful surroundings. This is what I have found when I sit with the Elders. They're so peaceful and I find this is what I am looking for. That's where the answers lie, within our Elders.

MS HH
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CHISASIBI TRADITIONAL POW-WOW COMMITTEE
Attention: Thomas Bobbish
P.O. Box 123
Chisasibi, QC, J0M 1E0
LAST CHANCE:
draw date is AUGUST 9 at the 7th Annual Traditional Pow-Wow in Chisasibi.

We, at Post Secondary Program of the Cree School Board, would like to extend our congratulations to the following students on the successful completion of their programs. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES OF 1996-97

Shirley Blackned	Wemindji	DEC in Nursing	John Abbott College
Rita Blacksmith	Waswanipi	DEC Service de garde	Cegep de Jonquiere
Rebecca Moore	Waswanipi	DEC sciences humaines	Cegep de l'Abitibi-Temiscamingue
Rhonda Oblin	Waswanipi	Certificate in Public Relations Mgt	McGill University
Clarence Snowboy	Chisasibi	Bac. en administration	Universite du Quebec
Nancy Bobbish	Chisasibi	Certificate en gestion d'enterprise	Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales
Cynthia Taylor	Waskaganish	DEC in Commerce	John Abbott College
Dorothy Nicholls	Mistissini	B.Ed. (TESL)	Concordia University
Kathy Shecapio	Mistissini	Certificat en relations Industrielles	Universite de Montreal
Tina Mark	Wemindji	Office Systems Technology	Heritage College
Frances Kawapit	Whapmagoostui	Office Systems Technology	Heritage College
Tracie Louttit	Wemindji	Business Administration	Algonquin College
Hugo Cowboy	Waskaganish	Recreation Facilities Mgt.	Algonquin College
Katherine Moses	Waskaganish	B.A. Native Studies	Trent University
Sarah Pashagumskum	Chisasibi	B.Ed.	University of Toronto
Losty Mamianskum	Whapmagoostui	B.A. (Honors) Law & Justice	Laurentian University
Randy Kitchen	Waswanipi	Law & Security	Cambrian College

The voice of the land

"When the tallymen cry, it is Mother Earth crying"

By Freddy Jolly

There has been a lot of destruction on our lands. Forestry, mining, roads, the hydro projects and more—these have all changed our lands and our way of life. As a Cree, I have cried when they destroyed our lands. As a tallyman, I have tried in so many ways to stop this but nothing has worked. The development and abuse of our lands continue, and the tallyman no longer has the power to save his trapline.

The role of the tallyman has always been to look after the land, the animals, the fish, the birds and the Cree people. I have talked to the Elders and this was the way it always was. The tallymen have been the caretakers of the land for many years. We have always protected our lands. When my dad chose me to be the tallyman of our trapline, R-21, he told me to watch over the land. Watching means taking care of it for future generations and protecting it against anything that causes damage to the land.

In the old days when there was famine, my dad shared his moose with people from the next trapline. There was no community store. It was the tallyman's job to look after each other. Sharing and helping each other, and watching over the land. A tallyman is the person who knows the land. He lives in the bush and has five senses: you see, hear, smell, feel and taste the land.

A tallyman's office is in the bush. He doesn't need to read reports and books about the animals. He already knows about them. The tracks of the animals are his books. The tallyman is chosen for this job because he has proven that he has these skills. He knows his land because he walks and talks with it all year-round. He is a full-time trapper. When you live in the bush all year long, watching over it, the land speaks to you. So when the tallymen speak, it is the land speaking. When the tallymen cry, it is Mother Earth crying. It is a collective voice.

The tallymen have always protected our lands. In order to do this, we have always had control over its use. We did this for our children and grandchildren and their children. As a tallyman, I am still trying to do this. But now, 20 years after their signed the JBNQA, the tallyman has no authority in our political system. We have lost our collective voice as the caretakers of the land of the Cree people because we have no formal system in place that recognizes the responsibility and authority of the tallymen. Instead we have a political system that is not based in the bush. When the tallymen give their opinions, they are ignored. When you ignore the tallyman, you are ignoring the land. And when you ignore the land, it is destroyed. And this destroys the future for our youth.

I see this happening every day. We must change this. We must stand up together and try to fix this.

When the tallymen ask for compensation for damages on the land, they are not acting as individuals. Each tallyman is acting as the collective voice for his trapline. As tallymen we have always had this role in Cree society. But now we have to do our job differently. Our voices need to become part of the Cree political system. I believe that the time has come for the tallymen to form their own organization, an advisory group that speaks to our leaders, to the governments of Canada and Quebec, and to all the companies that are trying to develop our land. The voice of a single tallyman was ignored but the voice of all the 325 tallymen in nine communities will be heard. This will be the collective voice of the land.

"A tallyman's office is in the bush. He doesn't need to read reports and books about the animals. He already knows about them."

We have to be strong. As Crees we have to remember our culture. We have to remember and respect the tallyman. If you want to stand up for the land, you have to stand up for the tallymen.

I would like to hear from other tallymen and Crees about this letter. What are your comments about this? Maybe we should have a meeting that brings all the tallymen and their wives together to discuss this more.

Meegwetch.

Freddy Jolly
10A Rabbit Trail
P.O. Box 53
Nemaska
J0Y 3B0
Telephone: (819) 673-2545

We, at Post Secondary Program of the Cree School Board, would like to extend our congratulations to the following students on the successful completion of their programs. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

POST-SECONDARY GRADUATES OF 1996-97

Tyson Dannrath	Waskaganish	Native Child & Youth Worker	Sault College
Henry Ratte	Waswanipi	General Arts & Science	Northern College
Jane S. Einish	Whapmagoostui	General Arts & Science	Northern College
Lillian Atsynia	Wemindji	Office Systems	Canadore College
Elizabeth Blacksmith	Mistissini	Office Systems-Medical	Canadore College
Laurie Brien	Mistissini	Office Admin.-General	Canadore College
Charles Esau	Waskaganish	Social Service Worker-Native	Canadore College
Stella Gull	Waswanipi	Office Admin.-General	Canadore College
Emma Mamianskum	Whapmagoostui	Office Admin.-General	Canadore College
Gertie Neacappo	Chisasibi	Office Systems	Canadore College
Allan Neeposh	Mistissini	Heavy Equipment Mechanic	Canadore College
James Neeposh	Ouje-Bougoumou	Recreation & Leisure	Canadore College
Kitty Neeposh	Ouje-Bougoumou	College Vocational	Canadore College
Margaret Nine-O'Clock	Chisasibi	Broadcasting-Radio	Canadore College
Lillian Rabbitskin	Chisasibi	Native Drug & Alcohol Counselling	Canadore College
Philip Swallow	Nemaska	Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic	Canadore College
Matthew Salt	Waskaganish	Ministerial Studies	Central Pentecostal Bible College
Mary L. Semple	Nemaska	Ministerial Studies	Central Pentecostal Bible College
Paul Moses	Waskaganish	B.A. Pastoral Ministry	Briercrest Bible College

SETTLING DOWN

Does it ever strike you that many of our young people are tying the knot at too an early age? How many couples got married in your community that were between the ages of 16 and 19? Most of them? Why do we allow young people to marry when they are practically children?

Okay, getting married young was alright back then, because we lived our lives out on the land. Alcohol wasn't a problem. There was always a strong bond between extended and immediate families and they always stayed together. Tasks were always being tended to: chopping wood, fetching water, hunting and other means of survival. Young people had to be responsible. They learned responsibility from a young age.

But in these days, times have changed. Now everyone is scattered. We have such easy access to materialistic things, and a need to be accepted by the "white dominated society." The young people in this generation rarely spend long periods of time in the bush. They are having too much fun partying in our communities. Sure there are some who love the bush, but for most, they just like hanging around. It's now harder to teach teenagers how to be responsible. It's harder and takes longer for them to become "mature"and "settle down".

I often hear elders cry out that alcohol is a major problem in our communities. And the mid-generations hear our elders and try to do something about it. Some of our councils spend thousands of dollars trying to keep alcohol out of our communities, when instead some of that money could be spent trying to educate our young people. Most of the people who drink in our communities are young people. If we spend more money trying to keep them busy, trying to make them aware that their education is very important and making something out of themselves is also a must - maybe that would have more effect on stopping alcohol abuse.

Teaching young people about birth control is also a definite need, both for boys and girls. Ever notice teens laugh when the word "condoms" is spoken, because we don't make them understand that condoms prevent pregnancies and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Babies are being born and some babiers are being neglected because their parents are still too immature to care for them. All this relates to getting married too young.

I, for one, am a good example. I got married when I was seventeen years-old. I thought I could settle down, but little did I know my partying days were not yet over. I drank while I was trying to raise a family. I was not emotionally mature enough to handle being a wife or mother, especially in a difficult marriage. I neglected my children. My children got taken away by Social Services and I still didn't learn.

I am now separated. It is only now I have regrets about not taking better care of my children. It is only now I realize I was too immature to start a family. I didn't realize that having a baby was a lifetime committment. I didn't know how to love and take care of my children. If I could take away the hell I put my children through, I would, but the sad fact is, I can't. I have a lot of making up to do. But now that I've matured, being a good mother is my goal, and I will try to do just that.

One of my children cries a lot and that is because she was not really loved. My ex-husand and I always fought and we were always busy dealing with one another, neglecting our children. We didn't love ourselves, we hadn't grown up enough to learn about life, and how to handle difficult times. We tried to raise a family,

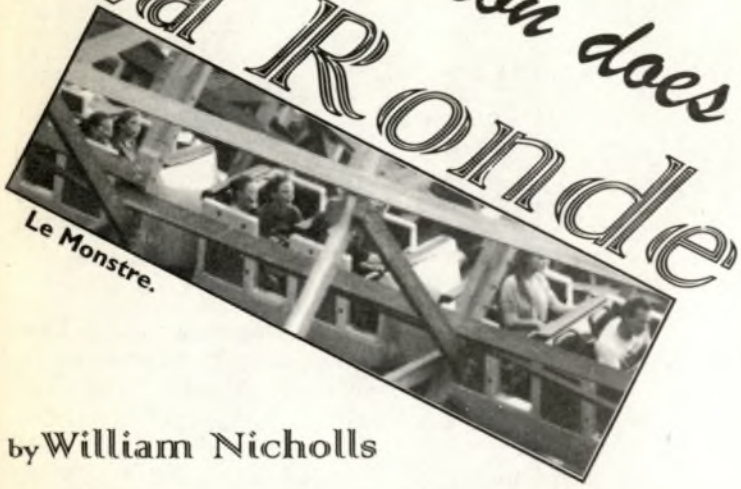
> "...don't you, the parents often end up babysitting your grandchildren because your children are out partying?"

make a living to feed our children, grow up ourselves and learn how to deal with life's tragedies, all at too early a stage in our lives. We couldn't give our children 100% unconditional love.

You see what I mean about young marriages? Let your children grow and once they are ready to get married, they'll get married. But the advice I would give them is to wait until they are truly ready for that lifetime committment.

This issue is dedicated to everyone - teens, elders, mothers, fathers, Chiefs, band councillors and the future generations. We all have to work together in order to have a "Sane Nation". Thank you. **by Marilyn Bearskin**

the Nation does La Ronde


Le Monstre.

by William Nicholls

Montreal is rapidly becoming the entertainment center of eastern Canada. It seems to have more festivals than people living in the city. There's everything from music, film, food, comedy and lobster festivals, just to name a few. In addition, many people enjoy great bands, sports, shows (i.e. car show '97), bars and other attractions Montreal has to offer. Montreal is also the home of the largest amusement park in Quebec called La Ronde. It was a must-see for *The Nation* so I arranged for a tour when some new rides were announced. It was also to be the first time in my life that I had ever ridden a rollercoster. I came to be thrilled.

The screams I overheard upon arriving at La Ronde were enough to make the Marquis de Sade a happy man, indeed. Well, at least until he found out that they were only screams of joy. Those screams of excitement have been going on at La Ronde for about 30 years as each new generation became thrillseekers all over again. Some like myself never forgot it. I came to be thrilled but didn't expect education to be an aspect of an amusement park. I was wrong.

One spot I would consider a must if you have young children is the Simulateur D'Incendie (fire simulator). Seasoned professionals from the fire department take young children through a simulator that teaches them important fire safety rules. At the end of the hands-on experience with fire-safety simulation they are put in a smoke-filled room which they have to find their way out of. Young children gain important tips that could save their lives in a fun way. Congratulations to the fire departments and La Ronde for this, including this feature. It's located near the entrance.

La Ronde has over 34 rides and keeps adding to them. They keep adding to the attractions also. This year's newest ride is the Tornado—which I recommend. A ride that has slow to fast speeds and a spin factor that will leave most of you... er... breathless. Ingrid, a fellow journalist, however, kept up one of the longest continuous screams I have ever heard in my life. She stopped only for a breath or two during the entire ride. Screams aside, she enjoyed the ride as much as I did. At the middle of the ride they actually stop it and give you a chance to get off if it's too much for you. Thank god, we weren't riding with the wimps that day.

You have to wonder at people sometimes. I mean you dish out some money for people to scare the hell out of you. I guess what makes it so delicious is that you know that you are as safe as you can get, while experiencing the thrills, chills and excitement of whatever ride you are on.

NEOSKWESKAU MEMORIAL ARENA MISTISSINI LAKE

10th Annual Mistissini Invitational Fastball and Softball Tournament

August 14-17, 1997 Mistissini, Quebec Registration Deadline: 12:00pm Friday, August 8, 1997

Over $15,000.00 in prizes to be awarded to three different categories:

DIVISION	# OF TEAMS	ENTRY FEE	PRIZE MONEY
Men's Fastball	8 teams	$650.00	Champions $4000.00 Finalists $2000.00
Men's Softball	8 teams	$550.00	Champions $3000.00 Finalists $1500.00
Women's Softball	8 teams	$550.00	Champions $3000.00 Finalists $1500.00

If you wish to register your team(s) in this prestigious tournament or if you need more information, please contact the following director(s):

Errol Mianscum
Neoskweskau Memorial Arena
Ph: (418) 923-3248
Fax: (418) 923-2430

Jean-Baptiste Loon
Recreation Director
Ph: (418) 923-3461
Fax: (418) 923-3115

NOTES:
Prize money may vary depending on the number of registrations.
Deadline for registration is Friday, August 8, 1997 at 12:00pm. This includes full payment of registration fees. The first teams to register and pay inscriptions will be accepted.

Rules and Regulations to follow:
Teams will be required to pay a DEFAULTATION FEE of $100.00.
All teams may be required to travel on Wednesday, August 13 as the Tournament begins Thursday, August 14.

This tournament is organised for the enjoyment and good sportsmanship of all participants.

When another cool-looking ride named the Cobra had some technical problems, I took a rain check until the next time at La Ronde. There was a 10 to 15 minute wait forecasted until it was operational again. While I may be a daredevil and occasional test pilot (remind me to tell you about the homemade raft episode sometime), I detest waiting around for excitement, so Ingrid and I were off and running.

Straight to Le Monstre, a rollercoaster. In the past I often attempted to get on this ride but the line-up was too long for my tastes. That day though was the day I decided, line-up or no line-up, I was ready to ride a

The Infernal Machine in the medieval village. A test of daring and agility with humour mixed in.

One of the many rides at La Petite La Ronde. Adults allowed!

rollercoaster for the first time. I knew Le Monstre wasn't the steepest wooden rollercoaster. That title belongs to the Cyclone in Brooklyn, NY. I knew it wasn't the longest because that's the Beast in Ohio someplace. The highest is in San Antonio,

In Fort Edmonton, an old west village replica, was music, beer and yet more attractions. I made one quick stop with Ingrid and had this photo taken for $12 something.

Texas, and that Meanstreak is a little over 179 ft. off the ground. Of course these are just the wooden ones like La Ronde's. The highest steel one is in Nevada. The Desperado is 209 ft. high.

Le Monstre though did make it into the world statistics. It was ranked 39th best in the world in 1993 by rollercoaster enthusiasts. That was good enough for me on my first ride. The screamfest didn't start happening until we reached the top. I must admit the adrenaline started flowing and the fight-or-flight synapses were in limbo. There was no place to run to and nothing to fight. I almost joined Ingrid in one good long scream but after the initial shock I was ready to rock. Rollercoasters live up to their name when excitement is mentioned.

A must see for young kids!

Maybe it took me 36 years to get on one but what a ride! What a rush at over 90 km/h! Just as I got used to it, it was all over. Only thing I didn't enjoy was the photo they had at the end. You could get a "photo" for a small exchange of money. In reality it was a scan onto a printer. I would've preferred the scan on disk so I could've brought that back.

One of the things we checked out was what was available for the younger kids and was there plenty. La Ronde is so kid-friendly it hurts. La Petite La Ronde has 10 rides just for them. Then there's the 40-foot screen for the latest generation of Nintendo, Nintendo 64, with such games as Starfox 64, Mario Cart 64 and Golden Eye. Didn't dare go into there. Stayed out of the Vulcanizer also. Lines were getting too long and time too short.

I had wandered around trying this and that for hours—crossbows for teddybears, rides, eating, rides, looking around and suddenly it was time to go. An afternoon had went past without me really noticing it.

If you're in Montreal and want to check La Ronde out, it's $23 and

Bumper Cars. Why didn't I see this earlier!

tax for ages 12+ , $11.41+tax for under 12, and $50.90+tax for a family of four when two of them are under 12.

By the way, La Ronde gave me six free passes for some of our readers to visit while in Montreal. If you're interested, drop us a line. One entry per person to win a pass. No age limit!

You can e-mail, mail, or fax an entry. All the information you need is on page 4 of *The Nation* under the section "Where to reach us."

NAME _____

COMMUNITY _____

PHONE #. _____

Note: We accept hand drawn copies or photocopies of the above entry form.

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The Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Regional Authority

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would like to invite all interested Cree beneficiaries to their

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Annual General Assembly
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ᐅᐱᐦᐅᐲᐱᓂᒪ 12,13 ᑭᔭ 14, 1997.

to be held in Ouje-Bougoumou
on August 12, 13 and 14, 1997.

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The major topics to be discussed are land and traditional issues.

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

ᐃᓄᐧᐃᐢ ᑕᔨᑎᒪᓂ
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

Dudley George, 1957-1995

The following victim impact statement was made by Sam George. His brother, Dudley, was killed by OPP officer Kenneth Deane at a protest at Ipperwash Park on Sept. 6, 1995.

My name is Maynard Sam George. I am a child services worker at Kettle and Stoney Point. Anthony Dudley George was my brother. I am the executor of Dudley's estate. I have been a spokesperson for our family since he was killed.

Dudley was the lively one of our brothers and sisters. He always had a smile on his face, or something to laugh and joke about. Even when we were adults, Dudley would come by and make sure that there was something to laugh about. He was a person with spirit; he was full of the spirit of life.

Since that night of Sept. 6, 1995, my brothers and sisters and I have been trying to make sense of what happened. This has been terrible for us. For many months it seemed like we are alone against the world...

Our other brother and sister drove Dudley, as he was dying, to hospital with a flat tire. When they got there, they were arrested and accused of attempted murder. They still don't know who took our brother into the hospital because they were dragged off to jail...

He died with no family around him to say our good-byes...

Our mother was Genevieve Rogers and our father Reginald George Sr. Our parents, who were known as Jenny and Nug, were good people and good parents. My brother Dudley was born on March 17, 1957 in the Sarnia hospital. Because it was St. Patrick's Day, my mother named our baby brother Anthony O'Brien. My parents did their best to raise and provide for us.

We gave our brother the nickname Dudley, on behalf of Dudley Doright, the 1960s RCMP cartoon.

Our family and 11 others were removed from our land at Stoney Point in 1942. I was born in 1952. But all of the children of Stoney Point always knew that it broke our parents' hearts when they were taken off their land.

Dudley was the eighth of our 10 brothers and sisters. I know from my work that the conditions facing Indian children can affect our lives for better and for worse. Many of us have experienced susbstance addiction, suicide and abuse.

We were all affected by the removal in 1942. We were all affected by the terrible difficulties after our family was forced off the land. Our family home was destroyed twice by fire. It was a miracle that none of us burned to death. Each time, our family was split up while our parents started over again.

In 1969 when our oldest sister Karen was killed in a car crash, all 10 of us had to live in one room, a kitchen. It was difficult to sleep or eat. It was impossible to do schoolwork. Dudley was 11 or 12 then. It was very hard on all of us. But somehow, Dudley was still a happy-go-lucky kid, always joking. I think this was because he was really sensitive...

It was our father who planted the seed of returning to our family's land in Dudley's heart. In 1993, Dudley was one of a group of Stoney Pointers who occupied the east side of the military base. My father had told him that this was our land. He also told him that the government had promised to return it, but 50 years had gone by and they never had.

Dudley put a big sign on his trailer at the base that said, "Dudley's place." We were glad for him; he had come home. Dudley told me he was living at the base for our Dad.

Dudley asked me to join the occupiers. I did not, because I had three children and five grandchildren, a house and my job as a youth counsellor at Kettle Point to think about. On Labour Day in 1995, Dudley and some of the other Stoney Pointers occupied the Provincial Park at Ipperwash as a protest. Less than two days later he was killed by the OPP.

The death of my younger brother has changed our life and my family's life completely. When a loved one dies of natural causes it is hard to deal with. But when a loved one dies from a gunshot and did not have to die, you not only deal with death, but there are many questions that need to be answered. This pain does not go away...

"my brothers and sisters and I have been trying to make sense of what happened. This has been terrible for us. For many months it seemed like we are alone against the world..."

Because of all the lies, the facts have been kept secret. We only found out how he died on the day this trial began, more than a year after he was killed.

The amount of work involved in this case has caused a lot of stress on myself. It started to affect me so bad that now I have developed diabetes, which my doctor said is caused by the stress. I was disabled from my work last year for three months. I never have time for my own children or to play with my grandsons because I am always tired or gone someplace working on this issue...

All I want is for someone to tell me the truth. I watch as it tears at my brothers and sisters and when they get mad I have to take the anger they feel.

Will I ever be able to say, "Now my brother can rest in peace"?

Police officer Kenneth Deane was found guilty of killing Dudley George and convicted of criminal negligence causing death. A judge said the officer knew Dudley was unarmed. Dudley's family was later outraged when the police officer received his sentence: two years less a day of probation, with no jail time. He will also have to perform 180 hours of community service, can't leave Ontario without police permission and can't use a firearm for the course of his sentence. Deane's lawyer and the police association say there's no reason he can't remain with the force at a desk job. -Ed.

Someone listens, cares and loves

As we walk on and on
In this world of troubles
We think no one will listen
We think no one cares
We think no one loves us

Look over your voice
Over your head
Over the trees
Over the sky
and you'll find the healing
That comes from God above...

I wrote this poem during my stay at the 2nd Healing Conference held in Waskaganish and would like to dedicate it to all the delegates who attended this conference.

Anita S. Trapper

"Mother"

A mother is a special somebody who shares
all our hopes and schemes

A friend who listens with interest to
all our plans and dreams

She's someone who joins in laughter, who calms
all our doubts and fears

She's someone who's treasured in the heart
with a closeness

That grows throughout the years!

This poem was dedicated to my caring loving mother Winnie Brown on Feb. 3. Happy B-day mom and thankx for being there for me during the most difficult times in my life. It really means a lot to have someone who's willing to listen. Through good and bad times you are always there for me, even when I feel like laughing. You are there to provide my need. I don't know what I would do without you. Anyways I love you with all my heart and again "thank you." Fr.: Love always Priscilla Bosum. xxx

My Father

by Charlie Alisappi

My Father, he was my best friend
I was his son
I loved him and I still do
I always wanted to be like him
Brave, Strong, Smart and Funny

My Father, he was my best friend
I always wanted to do what he did
he would laugh
I would laugh
he would get mad
I would get mad
cause I wanted to be like him

My Father, he was my best friend
he meant everything to me
he left us, he left the world
most sadly he left me alone

I don't know where he is
maybe he is beside me
or he is the sun or the moon
to watch over me all day long
or to watch over me while I sleep

My Father, he was my best friend
But best of all, my father gave me
a gift before he left
he gave me a new father.

I lost my dad at a very young age. Today I'm 19. I finished my first year of university (engineering). I wish he was here to see how far I made it in life.

Charlie Alisappi lives in Moose Factory, Ont., but is originally from Fort George.

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In loving memory

The following was written by Charity Gunner of Mistissini and dedicated to Charity's late grandfather, Josie Gunner.

My grandfather was a great man. He taught me many things, among them how to skin a beaver and how to cook fish.

He died this day on Feb. 18, 1996 at 10:30 p.m. in Perch River in his cabin. One year has passed and I still miss him. I was the only one in my family to be close to my grandfather and I know everyone in my family still misses him. Nobody treated me like he did. Except my father. I loved my grandfather and I'll still love him until I die.

Dedicated to my late grandfather Josie Gunner of Mistissini

Charity Gunner

Long ago, we taught our children knowledge
We taught them what they needed to know to live
We did this not for ourselves, or for our children
but for life

By passing on knowledge, we made sure life would continue

Then one day, they took our children away
We no longer had anyone to teach
No longer were we allowed to teach them our knowledge
Instead our children learned a different way of life

Our lives have changed, our communities have changed
Our day to day activities have changed
But our children have come back to us
It is time for us to come back to our children

It is time for us to teach them what they need to know
Not for us, or for our children
but for life.
Anonymous

continued from page 6

Oka crisis and in other parts of Canada. Last resorts got violent. The only thing they basically have left to protect is their burial grounds and their spirituality. Let's not let the same thing happen to us. I'm not racist or anything. I know a lot of non-Native people who are very, very friendly, but the government who governs them can be very destructive in their ways they call progress. Face it, you can't even drink the water straight out of the St. Lawrence any more. I hope or I'm sure we all hope that one day we will govern ourselves so that we will be able to have the first say in what happens on our land so that we can sustain our mother who for so long sustained us. We owe it to her.

Grand Council, can you please answer these questions to us (on *The Nation*) so we will all know where we stand as a nation. Aagoodah.

A very concerned citizen,
Roger Orr

It can't continue

Letter to *The Nation*:

I've been hearing or reading about residential school syndrome for quite a while, so please don't get me wrong for what I'm about to tell you. I sympathize and understand you because me too, I suffered some of these abuses. This is why I want to talk about a problem right here in our own community. A cycle I feel we can break, and by talking or writing about it, just maybe we can help someone out there.

I want everyone to know that where I came from, there was a lot of alcohol abuse, in my family, in my community. I don't know what would have happened to me if I wasn't in a residential school at that time. Unlike some of you, I do not feel that I was abused in any way while I was in a residential school. I was a happy child and I have a lot of good memories while I was there.

What I want to talk about is the sexual, physical and mental abuse that I went through, right here in our own community. Today, I realized that it affected me more than I cared to admit and thank the Creator, who watches over all of us, I'm getting past it slowly, one day at a time. I know it's not easy to forgive and forget, but at least, I am trying. I know I led a very destructive life because of it and I almost let it ruin my life completely. Just maybe, if I had realized it when I was younger, things would have been different.

This is why it's important to start talking about it and try to make a difference, especially to our younger generation, so this cycle of abuse can be broken. I know some of you will not like or want to hear about this subject, but let's all admit it, you and I both know that it's still going on, right here among us. I know we cannot change the past. It's already done, but today, there is one thing I can do. By writing this down, I hope all of us will think about what's going on in our community and make a change for the better. We cannot change what happened in the past but today, together, we can make a difference in our lives or someone else's life. We can start now to make a better future, not only for ourselves, but for our younger generation, for them not to go through what we went through, so this cycle of sexual, physical and mental abuse will someday break.

We have to take the first step by talking about it, and especially to our own children, so that they don't repeat this cycle of abuse. It cannot continue like this. Too many lives are ruined and destroyed by it. I also noticed that when the sexual abuse happens to the victims, I hear some people talk about it and actually some people or even the perpetrator will laugh about it and some people say: "Oh, she asked for it." Well, laugh no more because I'm sure glad I am still here to talk about it and I feel great relief to be able to write it down on paper.

I would also like to mention that these problems usually happen when alcohol is involved but it's sad to say, it happens, too, without the alcohol. I want to say to the people, think twice before you speak or what you do unto others. We all have hearts but some of us don't know how to use it.

I dedicate this letter to all of you who've been abused in any way. Don't let it ruin or destroy your life. Get help, talk to someone who you can trust and remember always that you are not alone. Don't ever feel unworthy or ashamed like I did. And like they say, there is really a light at the end of the tunnel.

P.S. Thank you all for reading my story.

Anonymous

Up to us

Letter to *The Nation*:

When this world has ended and begins again, and when the men, the Hitlers, have finished destroying each other, maybe if there is a God he'll look at the past lives that we've had on this earth that he created, and make some changes, and when the human race is created again, maybe we will be more humane, more sensitive to others' needs, religions and beliefs. Maybe we won't steal from our neighbours and friends, and strangers alike. Maybe we can be more polite to each other when we speak. Maybe we won't hit, torture, lie and kill the ones we love, and the ones we don't even know.

It's also up to us to make all of these changes. We have to make good with what we've got, and use it wisely. Who said all man were created equally? Was he a white man? So, before we all destroy ourselves, here and now, maybe we can stop and say hey wait a minute, let's get together and replenish what we've already destroyed.

Technology that we have, I don't see why we can't accomplish this. Our country is not poor, poor of water, trees, birds, animals or medicine, but we are poor in the lack of working together to rebuild life, save life, save history and to instill in ourselves that money is nothing, if we have nothing to give back.

If we don't start replenishing soon, our great, great, great grandchildren may never be born, or may start all over again regressing 2000 years ago...

Jill, Toronto Ndoojibaa

CLASSIFIEDS

101-BIRTHS

We, Gordon and Edith Gunner would like to proudly announce the arrival of our first baby, our son Evander Brian Gunner was born on June 14, 1997 at 9:15 p.m. in Chibougamau Hospital. We also want to thank our family and friends who were there with us at the hospital and thanks to all the people who gave our son wonderful gifts. God bless you all.

Congratulations to Charlene Mayappo on the birth of her baby boy Dakota Ryan Willis born on the 13th of May at 10:48 p.m., weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz. We wish you all the joy and happiness. With love from your family. House # 222 Shawinhin St. (Eastmain) P.S. Happy Mother's Day and happy birthday Charlene on May 17, 1997.

Congratulations to Beatrice Crow and Emmett on the birth of their baby girl Nancy Daisy who was born on May 13, 1997 at 10:20 p.m. Joy and happiness. From House # 222 (Eastmain)

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to my babyin Mistissini this July. Love and miss you so much! Everyone says and wishes you the best b-day bash ever. Love always your kid. XOX.

Birthday greetings going out to a long time friend of mine Mrs. Laura Ekomiak George on July 22. My guess is that you'll be celebrating your 22nd birthday. anyways enjoy your day like any other day. From friend always, Angela.

Happy birthday to our uncle Hester Pepabano on July 28, 1997. Uncle Hester we love you so much. Don't you forget that. Even though you tease us a lot. Love, your nephews, Sebastien, Romeo and Kyle.

Happy 4th birthday to Deanna Pepabano on July 28, 1997. We love you and we love your cute, sexy eyes. Good luck on your first school year. Love, Omeo and Bebastiensh.

Happy birthday to a very special person in our lives, our mother Edna Mayappo on June 4, 1997. Happy birthday and many more to come. Love always, your children Charlene, Sandra, Elsa, Derek and Patrick.

Happy Birthday to one of my best friends Wabigwan Polson on July 20. So you're finally turning eighteen. I just want to wish you all the best. True friends are never forgotten. In friendship, Angela E.

Happy Birthday to my only nephew Lyle Barry Morley Blackned on July 2. You've grown into a big little tough guy. I can't believe you'll be turning two. It seems like only yesterday you were born. You have brought so much love and happiness to the people around you. All my love, Angela.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday2 the cutest guy I ever saw his name is Joey F. 24 - 04 - 97. Sorry I'm so late remember that I will always love you. don't you ever forget that Joey! Love always, you know me, love ya cutie.

Happy birthday to a very special person Linda M. on July 30. Our friendship will always be special to me, you're my best friend and you always will be. Friends, sharing the good times, caring about one another, being there for each other. I'm lucky to have a friend like you. Once again happy birthday Nee Gee! From Judy. P.S. (Wed____ and Fed_____)

Belated birthday wish to a wonderful niece Candace Moar on July 1st. Candace, be a nice girl try to be good this year, now that you're turning five years old and help your mommy with your little brother. Happy birthday Boo doo Boms. Love always, Judy.

Happy belated birthday to Kerwin G.C. on June 12, Stanley Gilpin on June 29 and Jeremy S. on June 30. Love always, George, Margaret and Family.

We would like to wish Pamela G. and Curtis R.S on July 1 a happy birthday. Love, George Margaret and family.

I would like to wish Darwin Gilpin a happy 5th birthday on July 12. I love you very much and you'll always be in my heart. With love, Mom.

Happy birthday to our grandson Darwin G. on July 12 and Duane S. on July 16. With lots of love, George and Margaret.

We would like to wish Margaret r. Gilpin a happy birthday on July 26 and many more to come. We love you always, George, your children and your grandchildren.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthdayto Julia House on June 22 '97, Julianna Louttit On July 14 and Jennifer House on July 14. I just want to say Happy Birthday to all of you. P.S. Darryl House kiss Pearlnelle for us Love Grandpa George and family in Chisasibi XOX XOX We love you Pearlnelle.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthdayto my caring mother Lydia Petawabano on July 27th. Many more to come. Love daughter Sonia and Samantha Petawabano XOX XOX Have fun in big "R."

I would like to wish a Happy Birthdayto my lovely mom Annie Happyjack. Her birthday is on July 7/97. I love you so much and I give you a big hug and kisses for your birthday. Once again Happy Birthday and I love you with all my heart. Love always your daughter, Sheila XOX (Was.)

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to Doreen Pepabano on June 18, 1997. Your friends, Leigh-Ann Pepabano, Yvette Pepabano, Julia House, Sylvie House, Stacy Moar, Stella-Jane Snowboy and Jaycie Moar.

We would like to wish a special Birthday to our friend Jonathan Ottereyes in Waswanipi on July 19/97. I hope you know how much you mean to us. Fr. Your Friends. Clara, Nadia, Nathalie, Maryanne, Priscilla, Kyla.

On June the 18th, our son Byron Jonah will be celebrating his 17th Birthday. Have a nice one Byron Remember that we will always be here for you and we love you! Very much son! With love always Mom & Dad. (Wask.)

Happy 17th birthday to our Brother Byron Jonah on June 18th, have a blast and a wonderful b-day. You deserve it Byron! We love you. With love always, your sisters, Amanda and Jasmine. Brothers, Kyle and Sheldon.

Happy birthday wishes to our daughter Jasmine Rox-Ann celebrating her 16th birthday on July 11th in Mist. We love you and we miss you so much! Babe! May your day be a special one like U. W.L.Y. From mom and dad (Wask.)

Happy birthday to my son Jeremy Coon-Come on June 18, 1997. Many more to come. From your dad Josie Coon Come.

Weena, it's your birthday again, and I can't help where the years have gone since you were just my little girl, reaching out for me to hold you, to protect you, to love you,... and on your birthday, I can't help remembering those days, but I also see you as you are, mature and strong, no longer in need of me to protect you. I hope you know, though, that I'm still here to hold you when you want me to and always, always love you. Happy birthday on August 24. I love

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EIGHTH ANNUAL CREE YOUTH ASSEMBLY

July 29, 30, 31, 1997

Mistissini, Eenou Estchee

Traditionally, leadership has been passed from one generation to another. Our nation has undergone tremendous change within the past twenty years. The questions we urgently need to address are: Are we as youth prepared to assume our inherent responsibilities? Where do we begin and how?

We have the power to administer our own affairs and the power to include our voice in all affairs of Eeyou Estchee. It is our right to exercise our roles to help shape our future in this great nation.

It is time to reflect upon our past, build ourselves a foundation and seek our vision for today. Declaring our position as future leaders on all affairs which affect us and our Children today is important. Let's take the time to find all means to preserve and protect our garden, Eeyou Estchee.

Let us join together as one nation with one voice, voicing our concerns and ensuring that they are heard and acted upon.

The Cree Nation Youth Council of Eeyou Estchee invites all Cree Youth between the ages of 13-29 years to the Eighth Annual Cree Nation Youth Assembly to be held on July 29, 30 & 31, 1997 in Mistissini, Eenou Estchee.

THE REGIONAL CANOE BRIGADE will coincide with the closing of the Assembly on July 31st from Mistissini to Nemaska. For more information contact the CRA Youth Department in Nemaska at 819-673-2600.

PROPOSED TOPICS:
**** Cree Governance***
**** Natural Resources***
**** Economic Development***
**** Future of Cree Youth Organizations***
**** Health & Social Issues***
**** Culture and more...***

This notice is given on this 9th day of July 1997 by the members of the Cree Nation Youth Council of Eeyou Estchee.

CLASSIFIEDS

you very much and I thank god for such a wonderful daughter. With love, mom Anna. xox (Ouje-Bougoumou)

Birthday greetings going out to the shortest and most caring brother Harry George Bosum on August 20th. A brother like you is a special kind of friend and we love you very much even though we don't get a long much. Oh! and by the way I guess you don't really mind being injured eah? Since you like to treat us like slaves. Do this: Do that! Bring that! You know what we mean. And I guess the only thing that affects you is your baseball game eh? Well, don't worry, you'll get better, we hope! So you don't have to treat everybody like slaves! including mom and dad (joke). Hope you have fun and meet Foxxy again someday. (JK) With love, your brothers and sisters, Antonio, Cecilia, Weena, Emily, Karen, Daniel, Willy, Thomas, Naomi, Lillybelle and especially Baboon and Ottis. xox (Ouje)

Happy birthday to Antonio Bosum on Canada Day (July 1st) and to Cecilia B. Mianscum on Independence Day (July 4th) Hope your birthdays will be as special as you both are to us and many more wonderful years to come. We love you! From your brothers and sisters (Ouje) xoxo.

A belated birthday wish going out to my husband Billy Trapper on June 8, 97. There is a lovely path of love where the sun will always shine to warm the happy memeories shared between your heart and mine.

We would like to wish our beautiful daughter Joyce Trapper a happy birthday. Sorry you didn't recieve a cake or a gift from us. It is because we were in Montreal when grandma was sick. But you will have a birthdfay party coming up. We love you very much.

Birthday greetings going out to my two very special friends Theresa Bosum on July 22 and top Rachel Bush on August. Thank you for the many things you've done so thoughtfully. Thank you for the kindness you have always shown to me. Thank you for your help and for your understanding too. Thank you for simply being yourselves and I also wanna thank you for all the fun and caring moments we've shared with each other. Love in friendship, Naomi Bosum (Ouje) P.S. Friends like you are forever! (Friends 4 eva!) Remember summer of '96?

Happy Birthday wishes to our daughter Jasmine Roxann Jonah Celebrating her 16th birthday on July 11th in Mistissini. We love and we miss you so much, Babe. May your day be a special one like you. From Mom and Dad. (Wask.)

Happy belated 36th birthday to my mom Lydia Petawabano on the 27th of July. Love Michael and Philip Petawabano.

Hey! hey Priscella, Dennate Deen Gee? You celebrated your birthday this past spring. April 24th is it? I think. No, I'm sure. Thought I'd wish you a late one so here it goes. Happy Birthday!!! Prisc. Yaa! yaa. Although I'm kinda late. Anyhow it's just the thought that counts ehh! Sorry about the thing with the cast. Hope you still gotta dance a bit there, though.. Saa... Your friend here, Heather (Wask.) P.S. I'll call you sometime 'n' I'll be seein' you. Yaa! Where's that you'll say, Le Inn of course nama? Ever slick eh!

Our one and only special daughter, Norlyne Matoush will be celebrating her 1st birthday on July 21. Oh how we adore you, Happy Birthday baby girl. We love you so much from Mom and Dad.

Sending two birthday wishes to the cutest and chubby boys. Eric'sh, happy 3rd birthday on June 9 and also to Linden, Happy 1st birthday on July 21. Hope you two had fun on your birthdays and wish you boys all the best in the years to come. Kissing you both on your boodoo cheeks. Luv ya! Judy.

Happy 2nd birthday to my niecve Jajuna on July 22nd. Love, your auntie, Mary.

Happy birthday to my 2nd cousin Ajouksh on July 4th. Love, Mary.

Who's turning 22 on July 13th?! My very best friend, Nian (otherwise known as Funtasia), that's who! Happy, happy b-day, buddy! Get ready to rock at my place Friday night!Always remember: beer helps! Let's have a great summer and keep on rockin'! Love, Deantha xoxoxoxo

102-WEDDINGS

I would like to congratulate my cousin William Saganash and Angel Nakogee to their wedding on July 4, 1997. "It's about time you two." Love always, Sheila. (Was.)

Congratulations to Brian and Charlene on their upcoming wedding on August 16, 1997. Sorry we won't be able to make it on your special day. From the girls who work at the arena upstairs right above your office. For more information, call us at ext. 306.

Congratulations going out to Caroline and Leon who were married on June 28, 1997 in Maniwaki. It was a beautiful wedding. From all the people who celebrated with the couple, we wish you the very best. To the people at the after hour beach party: Tina, Alice, Stella, Lillian, Mabel, Priscilla, Reggie, Donovan, Norm, Bob, Ding a Ling, Chum and a few others who slipped in and out of consciousness how was the water? Still waiting for those pictures Reg. A heartfelt thanks going out to Mabel Wapachee who let us all crash at her place. We were truly impressed with the chateau. Note to Kathy S.: Hope you got home in one piece, haven't heard from you yet! What a weekend eh!

103-ANNIVERSARY

About a year ago on July nineteen my friend Laura Ekomiak tied the knot with Stanley George. I just want to wish my friend all the love and happiness as they share their first anniversary. In friendship always, Angela E.

Happy 1st anniversary to mommy and daddy on July 19. We love you. From Kerwin and Andrea.

Happy first anniversary to Daisy and Alvin Cheezo on July 19 and many more years to come. George, Margaret and family.

This anniversary greetinggoes out to very special parents Janie and Robert Kanatewat. Mom, Dad... We want you to know that we love you both. You are a very important part of our lives. Our relationship, our memories and moments shared. The love you've given us is all so very precious to us. We count our blessings to have parents like you, and we hope you realize that you have always been our inspiration. You have guided us in each decision and encouraged us to reach for every dream. You have helped us, through your guidance, wisdom and the strength of your love to become the person we are now. We want you to know that though we may not show it often enough, you mean so much more than words can say. We thank you and love you both with all our hearts. Happy 38th Anniversary Mom and Dad. (July 13) Love always Judy and Claudine.

104-GRADUATIONS

A girl from Wemindji graduated from Office Systems at Canadore and I would like to congratulate her. This girl was my best friend in North Bay and I'm going to miss her very much. We were everywhere and we were inseparable. It was nice knowing and I hope we meet again someday, somewhere in this world. Oh, I almost forgot to mention her name, It is Lillian Atsynia. The one and only. Ta ta from your best friend in North Bay.

Hip, hip, hooray! for Margaret Nine O'clock for completing her program in Radio Broadcasting at Canadore. Well Margo, as far as I know, you're the first native in James Bay to graduate from Radio Broadcasting. Congratulations graduate, I see you already have a job, you smart "B". Anyway, you'll be missed terribly in North Bay. Especially Joe at BC. TTFN from your best friend.

To the graduate: This special day was long in coming and knowledge gained was worth the wait. Congratulations to my friend Rachel Neeposh from Mistissini who will be successfully completing high school at Voyageur Memorial School on June 20, 1997. You did it! You proved that it's possible to overcome obstacles to do well even when the odds are against you. I know it wasn't easy but I'm not surprised at all because I know you and all along I knew you had it in you to succeed. Congratulations again on a job well done! Wishing you the very best throughout the days ahead. From a friend who's really proud of you. Sylvia B. from Waskaganish. Also congratulations to Lynn S., Nellie B., and Sharon M.. I wish you guys all the best and success! May you achieve your goals! From SB

300-PERSONALS

A special message for Alex who won countless awards of excellence for his reporting....from parents and brothers, let's hear it: URA, URA, URA! Pozdorovlayemo eez nahorodamy. Hard work payed off. Keep it up. Nehay tebe Boh bereze.

Jimmy: You made me proud for the choice you made. Many years I stood back and let you make the mistakes in order for you to grow. I let you make your own conclusions. But today you make me a proud mom for this choice you've made. There will be trials and temptations but, son, be strong. I know you can make it through. there is no such word a "quitter". Love and prayers, mom.

Saluting everyone who hammered the night away at Caroline and Leon's wedding on June 28, 1997. List of people is too long, you know who you are! All the best to the bride and groom, loved the wedding cake (Caroline's favorite...cheesecake!) Do we know how to celebrate or what!

Congratulations to our granddaughter Andrea Alysson for her walking out ceremony on June 14. Grandpa George and grandma Margaret.

Attention! Attention! To all boy s and girls who love to write. Penpals wanted for a friendly exchange of letters. From ages 13-18. Just write to L. Bosum, 55 Wopasite meskino, Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec, G0W 3C0. (age: 14 female) or N. Bosum, 74 Opataca meskino, Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec, G0WQ 3C0. (Age 15 male)...hope to hear from you soon.

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le PICK

Dear Nation, eh! Want some water eh! It's pretty cold out there eh! Bajick has a bad hair day, eh! I can see my house eh! Daniel is our boss for now eh! Natalie's late again eh! I can see Brian's house from here. eh! Jack and Daniel went up the hill eh! They were drinking and Jack fell down, eh! Daniel stood there eh! Ahgooda mag eh. neeann Arita, Delanna, Ruby geeya Vivian eh!

Traditional Baby Foods

so they grow up healthy...

1. FISH, RABBIT or PARTRIDGE BROTH
Dilute with water if there's too much fat,
or if it's too strong.

2. MOOSE or CARIBOU BROTH
Boil bones with the marrow. Let the fat rise
and harden into a gel. Scrape it off.
Feed the broth, called Mooshgamee.

3. BRAINS
Rabbit, Beaver or Partridge.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Mabel Gunner, 66,
and her granddaughter Sarah

Cree Nation of Mistissini

"It takes a whole village to raise a child"

— Old African Proverb

We, at the Public Health Department are pleased to present a Parenting course in July and August, and we extend a sincere welcome to you, the parents and the community to take an active interest in the "raising of our children" by participating in this offer.

This parenting course is based on the Bowdin Method of parenting, which aims to provide parents and caregivers ideas that will help them build better relationships with their children and with the people that are involved in the lives of their children.

For more information, and to register for this parenting course, please call at 923-3461

We look forward to hearing from you.

Facilitator Maggie Louise Petawabano

Public Health, working together with you to make our community a healthier place.

INAUGURATION DU CAMPING DU LAC MATAGAMI

Le 4 août prochain, une cérémonie protocolaire aura lieu afin d'ingaurer le camping du lac Matagami, situé au kilomètre 38 de la route de la Baie James.

À cette occasion, deux bâtiments seront dédicacés. Le pavillon d'accuiel portera le nom de "Diamond" tandis que le pavillon communautaire portera le nom de "Ottereyes".

Il s'agit de deux familles reconnues pour avoir eercé et poursuivre aujourd'hui l'exercice d'activités traditionnelles dans le voisinage de la rivière Waswanipi, à l'embouchure du lac Matagami.

Les descendants de ces familles sont conviés à prendre part à cette commémoration.

La Municipalité de la Baie James a investi au-delà de 784,000 $ pour le réaménagement de ce camping et la construction de nouveaux bâtiments. Pour ce faire, elle a bénéficié en outre du programme de mise en valeur de l'environnement, d'Hydro-Québec, ainsi que du fonds d'intervention régionale, du Secrétariat au développement des régions.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF LAKE MATAGAMI CAMPGROUND

On August 4, 1997, the Lake Matagami campground will be officially opened. This new facility is situated at kilometer 38 of the James Bay highway.

At the opening, two buildings will receive dedications. The new reception hall will be called "Diamond" and the community centre will be named "Ottereyes."

The buildings are to be dedicated to two families known for maintaining a traditional lifestyle in the area surrounding the Waswanipi river, at the mouth of Lake Matagami.

The descendants of these families are cordially invited to take part in the opening ceremony.

The Municipalité de la Baie James has invested over $784,000 to restore this camp ground and construct the new buildings. Municipal funding was obtained through Hydro-Québec's programme de mise en valeur de l'environnement and the Quebec government's Fonds d'intervention régionale, from the Secrétariat au développement des régions.

MUNICIPALITÉ DE LA

Baie James